GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4551
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Women/SC/ST/Minority Judges
Ajmal Shri Sirajuddin;Chandel Kunwar Pushpendra Singh;Mullappally Shri Ramachandran;Pandula Dr. Ravindra Babu

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male and female Judges in Supreme Court and High Courts at present along with the number out of them belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes/minority, State-wise;
(b) whether the Government is aware that there is negligible percentage of women judicial officers in High Court and Supreme Court benches;
(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(d) whether the Government is aware that as per National Commission for Scheduled Castes report of 2011, there are only a few judges from SC/ST community in High Courts as against the total number of judges and many of the High Courts did not have a single judge from these communities;
(e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto; and
(f) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to improve this disparity and increase the participation of women and SC/ST/minority communities in the judiciary?

Answer

ANSWER
Minister of State for Law and Justice and Electronics and Information Technology.
(SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (f) : Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is made under Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution of India respectively. These Articles do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. Therefore, no caste or class-wise data of Judges is maintained. However, the Government has requested the Chief Justices of the High Courts that while sending proposals for appointment of Judges, due consideration be given to suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and women.

: 2 :

A Statement showing the number of women Judges working in Supreme Court and the High Courts as on 09.12.2016 is annexed.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes in its report of 2011inter-alia recommended the constitution of a National Judicial Commission for making appointment to the Superior Courts. In this regard, the Government enacted the Constitution (Ninety-Ninth Amendment)Act, 2014 and the National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 w.e.f 13.4.2015. The Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 16.10.2015 has struck down both the Acts as unconstitutional and void.

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Annexure

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4551 for answer on 14.12.2016 showing the Approved strength, Working Strength of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts and number of women Judges
(Position As on 09.12.2016)

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Approved Strength	Working strength	No. of women Judges
A	Supreme Court of India	31	24	01
B	High Court			
1	Allahabad	160	85	07
2	High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad	61	23	01
3	Bombay	94	62	12
4	Calcutta	72	38	3
5	Chhattisgarh	22	11	-
6	Delhi	60	39	11
7	Gauhati	24	17	1
8	Gujarat	52	31	4
9	Himachal Pradesh	13	10	-
10	Jammu & Kashmir	17	10	-
11	Jharkhand	25	13	-
12	Karnataka	62	30	4
13	Kerala	47	38	4
14	Madhya Pradesh	53	39	3
15	Madras	75	57	6
16	Manipur	05	03	-
17	Meghalaya	04	03	-
18	Orissa	27	18	1
19	Patna	53	32	2
20	Punjab& Haryana	85	47	7
21	Rajasthan	50	34	2
22	Sikkim	03	02	1
23	Tripura	04	03	-
24	Uttarakhand	11	07	-
Total		1079	652	69